

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 ACDE-00 OES-03 ERDA-05

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TRSE-00 NSC-05 BIB-01 /091 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9518

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 04427

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, UK

SUBJECT: NPT CONSULTATIONS WITH UK

REF: STATE 56388

SUMMARY. U.S. TEAM OF VAN DOREN AND WOLFOWITZ OF ACDA, NOSENZO OF STATE, THOMPSON OF ERDA AND EMBOFF HAD USEFUL CONSULTATIONS ON NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE WITH UK REPRESENTATIVES IN LONDON MARCH 21-22. UK TEAM HEADED BY JOHN THOMSON OF FCO. OTHER UK REPS. INCLUDED JOHN EDMONDS OF FCO, ALLAN WHITE OF UK MISSION GENEVA AND FRANK PANTON AND DENNIS FAKELY OF MOD. END SUMMARY.

1. U.S.-UK CONSULTATIONS ON NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE - DAY AND A HALF OF CONSULTATIONS PROVED MORE USEFUL THAN EXPECTED, SINCE THEY WERE DEVOTED TO THOROUGH CANVASSING OF ISSUES LIKELY TO ARISE AT REV CON RATHER THAN DRAFTING EXERCISE ON FINAL DECLARATION.

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2. THOMSON STARTED MEETING BY CITING AS OBJECTIVE, IN

ADDITION TO KEEPING PRESENT PARTIES MOLLIFIED, IMPACT OF CONFERENCE ON NON-PARTIES SUCH AS FRANCE, INDIA, PAKISTAN, ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL. VAN DOREN QUESTIONED HOW MUCH IMPACT CONFERENCE COULD HAVE ON THOSE COUNTRIES, AND CONSIDERED MORE IMPORTANT THE IMPACT ON KEY SIGNATORIES SUCH AS JAPAN AND THE EC COUNTRIES AND NON-PARTIES THAT HAD NOT CLEARLY RULED OUT JOINING THE TREATY.

3. AFTER DISCUSSION OF VARIOUS TACTICAL AND PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS WHICH WILL BE TREATED SEPARATELY IN TRIP REPORT, DISCUSSION TURNED TO TREATY ARTICLE-BY-ARTICLE CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES LIKELY TO ARISE AND HOW BOTH SIDES PLANNING TO DEAL WITH THEM. MOST NOTABLE POINTS IN THIS DISCUSSION ARE OUTLINED BELOW.

4. ON ARTICLE VI, THOMSON INDICATED THAT UK WAS PLANNING TO SUGGEST IN REV CON FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF QUOTA ON NUCLEAR WEAPON TESTS, CITING PROVISION IN TTB TO EFFECT THAT WEAPONS TESTS WOULD BE KEPT TO MINIMUM AND FACT THE UK NEEDED SOMETHING TO MATCH SALT ACCOMPLISHMENTS. VAN DOREN SAID HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD CAUSE CONSIDERABLE PROBLEMS FOR U.S., AND SHOULD BE SUBJECTED TO FURTHER CONSULTATIONS. HE NOTED THAT ONE OF THE MANY PROBLEMS RAISED WAS WHETHER PNE'S WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE QUOTA.

5. THOMSON SAID UK WAS CONSIDERING DISCUSSION OF PROPOSAL FOR CUT-OFF OF PRODUCTION OF FISSIONABLE MATERIAL FOR WEAPONS PURPOSES, CITING FACT THAT TRIVEDI OF INDIA HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THIS PROPOSAL IN COURSE OF THOMSON'S RECENT VISIT TO DELHI. BOTH VAN DOREN AND UK DEF. MIN. REPRESENTATIVE URGED CAUTION ON THIS, AND VAN DOREN ADDED THAT PROPOSAL HAD ALWAYS MET WITH SOVIET OPPOSITION AND GENERAL LACK OF INTEREST BY OTHERS.

6. ON SECURITY ASSURANCES, THOMSON INDICATED UK WAS THINKING OF STRESSING THE VALUE OF NUCLEAR FREE ZONES IN APPROPRIATE AREAS, SINCE THE GREATEST SECURITY PROBLEM WAS THAT AMONG HOSTILE NEIGHBORING NNWS. VAN DOREN NOTED THAT THIS WOULD QUICKLY RAISE THE QUESTION OF UNDERTAKINGS BY NWS NOT TO USE OR THREATEN TO USE NUCLEAR WE-

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APONS AGAINST PARTIES TO SUCH NFZ, AND ASKED WHAT THE UK POSITION WAS ON THIS ASPECT OF NFZ. THOMSON SAID THAT, WHERE A NFZ ARRANGEMENT WAS WORKED OUT THAT MET THEIR CRITERIA, THE UK WOULD BE PREPARED TO GIVE SUCH AN UNDERTAKING. VAN DOREN NOTED THAT THERE WOULD BE PRESSURE AT THE REVIEW CONFERENCE TO GIVE A SIMILAR UNDERTAKING TO NPT PARTIES AND ASKED ABOUT UK ATTITUDE TOWARD THIS. THOMSON INDICATED THAT UK NOT PREPARED TO GIVE SUCH

UNDERTAKING, NOTING, HOWEVER, THAT IF THIS ISSUE BECAME HIGHLIGHTED, LABOR BACK-BENCHERS MIGHT EMBRACE IT AND FORCE RE-EXAMINATION OF GOVERNMENT'S POSITION.

7. IN DISCUSSION, ARTICLE IV, VAN DOREN EXPLAINED OUR CONCERN WITH THE RUSH TO BUILD NATIONAL REPROCESSING
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PLANTS. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WOULD BE NO SERIOUS COMMERCIAL NEED FOR REPROCESSING FOR SOME YEARS, AND THAT THIS PROVIDED TIME TO WORK OUT PLANS FOR SAFEST AND MOST COST-EFFECTIVE WAY OF PROVIDING FOR REPROCESSING NEEDS, ESPECIALLY FOR COUNTRIES WITH SMALL NUMBER OF REACTORS. (IN THIS CONNECTION, NOTE WAS TAKEN OF THE LARGE EUROPEAN NUCLEAR ENERGY CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN PARIS APRIL 21-25, AND THE NEED TO COORDINATE PREPARATION FOR THIS CONFERENCE WITH NPT REV CON PREPARATIONS UK EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH THIS OBJECTIVE BUT QUESTIONED WHETHER CONCEPT OF MULTI-NATIONAL REPROCESSING PLANTS SHOULD BE PUT FORWARD AT REV CON, SUGGESTING IT MIGHT BE

BETTER FOR REV CON TO CALL FOR URGENT STUDY OF HOW BEST TO MEET FUTURE REPROCESSING NEEDS. THEY SAID THEY NEEDED MORE DETAIL ON WHAT WE HAD IN MIND AS TO MULTI-NATIONALITY.

8. BOTH SIDES RECOGNIZED THE PRESSURES WE WOULD BE UNDER TO REQUIRE, AS A CONDITION OF NUCLEAR SUPPLY, THAT NON-PARTIES HAVE ALL OF THEIR PEACEFUL NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES
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UNDER IAEA SAFEGUARDS SO THAT NPT-PARTIES WOULD NOT BE AT DISADVANTAGE. VAN DOREN POINTED OUT SOME OF THE PRACTICAL AND LEGAL DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED, BUT SAID WE WERE STILL LOOKING AT WHETHER ANY STEP IN THAT DIRECTION COULD BE TAKEN. HE ALSO NOTED DIFFICULTY IF ALL OTHER SUPPLIERS WERE NOT PREPARED TO GO THAT FAR.

9. EDMONDS (UK) REFERRED TO CABLE HE HAD JUST RECEIVED FROM VIENNA REPORTING REQUEST BY IAEA DG FOR PROMPT CONSULTATIONS WITH EXPERTS ON NPT INTERPRETATION PROBLEM (I.E. WHETHER NUCLEAR EXPLOSION INVOLVED) RAISED BY LASER FUSION. VAN DOREN NOTED THAT THIS ISSUE MIGHT ALSO ARISE AT NATO DISARMAMENT EXPORTS MEETING ON APRIL 8 AT TRI-LATERAL DISCUSSIONS (WITH USSR) IN APRIL, AND AT REVIEW CONFERENCE ITSELF, BUT STRESSED THAT IT WAS AN EXTREMELY SENSITIVE ISSUE WHICH REQUIRED CAREFUL STUDY IN WASHINGTON BEFORE WE DECIDED ON WHETHER OR HOW TO RESPOND TO DG'S REQUEST. HE NOTED THAT WE HAD NOT SUCCEEDED IN FINDING A SATISFACTORY DEFINITION OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSION. UK REPRESENTATIVES AGREED ON SENSITIVITY AND DIFFICULTY OF DEFINITIONAL APPROACH AND ADDED THAT PRESSURE TO DECLASSIFY LASER FUSION RESEARCH WAS ALSO A SERIOUS PROBLEM. EACH SIDE AGREED THAT ITS GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER PROMPTLY THE BEST TACTICAL APPROACH TO DEAL WITH ENTIRE ISSUE, AND CONSULT ON IT BI-LATERALLY BEFORE DISCUSSING IT WITH OTHERS OR DECIDING TO DISCUSS IT WITH DG.

10. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO BE PREPARED AT THE CONFERENCE; AT THE NATO DISARMAMENT EXPERTS' MEETING AND THE TRI-LATERAL DISCUSSIONS IN APRIL, TO DECIDE HOW WE WOULD HANDLE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROPOSED NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS CONFERENCE.

11. THE RECENT SIPRI PAMPHLET FOR THE REV CON, WHICH IS SIMPLE, TROUBLESOME, AND WIDELY CIRCULATED WAS ALSO NOTED AS A PROBLEM WITH WHICH WE WILL HAVE TO COPE, SINCE IT MAY BE USED BY SOME DELEGATIONS AS THEIR PRINCIPLE PREPARATION. IT CITES AS MINIMAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE OUTCOME OF THE REV CON A NUMBER OF THE UNDESIRABLE MEAS-

URES DISCUSSED ABOVE.

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12. UK GAVE US DRAFT TEXT OF FINAL DECLARATION AND A
PAPER RELATING TO OVERALL SUBJECT OF FINAL DOCUMENTS,
WITH REQUEST THAT WE FURNISH COMMENTS WHEN WE HAVE HAD
OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THEM.

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